

10/527,476

**REMARKS**

Initially, the Applicant thanks the Examiner for indicating that claims 7, 8 and 13 are allowed in this application.

Claims 9-11 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 112, first paragraph, for the reasons noted in the official action while claims 9-11 are also rejected, under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b), as being anticipated by either Mikami et al. '673, Tsukamoto et al. '990 or Thomas '881. The Applicant acknowledges and respectfully traverses all of the raised rejections in view of the following remarks.

In view of the above cancellation of rejected claims 9-11, the Applicant respectfully submits that further comments concerning the raised 35 U.S.C. § 112, first paragraph, rejection and/or the raised rejection under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b), in view of the applied prior art of Mikami et al. '673, Tsukamoto et al. '990 and/or Thomas '881, are not believed necessary. The Applicant also notes the remaining prior art cited in the official action. As none of that additional art is applied by the Examiner with respect to allowed claims 7, 8 and 13 of this application, the Applicant is not providing any comments concerning that art as well.

If any further amendment to this application is believed necessary to advance prosecution and place this case in allowable form, the Examiner is courteously solicited to contact the undersigned representative of the Applicant to discuss the same.

In view of the foregoing, it is respectfully submitted that the raised rejection(s) should be withdrawn and this application is now placed in a condition for allowance. Action to that end, in the form of an early Notice of Allowance, is courteously solicited by the Applicant at this time.

In the event that there are any fee deficiencies or additional fees are payable, please charge the same or credit any overpayment to our Deposit Account (Account No. 04-0213).

Respectfully submitted,



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